Summary of Tulane National Primate Center incident, January 28, 2015:

Amanda Vincent from LA DEQ provided the attached elevation and topical maps showing the general hydrologic flow in the area. She included these comments:

"Flow (is) from Tulane Primate Center into (the) Abita River, then Bogue Falaya River, then Tchefuncte River and into Lake Pontchartrain. Please note it is possible this area of Abita River may experience tidal influences and tidal movement (we've indicated an estimated extent of tidal influence to Hwy 190, and would like to note that in-field observations may help verify actual tidal extent)." This would indicate that backflow or upriver flow is possible also to some extent.

Dr. Skip Bohm sent me the following communication which answered a few of our questions from the previous day:

"Tulane does intend to conduct in house serology analysis using ELISA as per the publications forwarded to you, the USDA, and the CDC. We have a meeting planned on Thursday at 2pm with Lisa Morici and members of the TNPRC Pathogen Detection and Quantification Core to discuss the serology action plan. After that meeting we will have information related to the capacity for throughput and a timeline for testing samples." Dr. Bohm went on to say, "On Saturday morning (January 24, 2015) we added the use of N95 respirators and boot covers to our current PPE protocols in the two field cages where the confirmed cases were housed at the time of diagnosis. Our Unit of Compliance and Training is currently writing protocol that outlines these enhancements. I will forward that document as soon as it is approved. I have attached the two publications that reference the antibody assay we plan to utilize for the serum testing plan."

Dr. Bohm also indicated that Dr. Don Sibley would be reviewing the necropsy procedures.

Dr. Diane Stacey, Asst. State Veterinarian at LDAF, provided a Google Earth generated surveillance map that is attached. She also provided the attached soil sampling protocols from CDC/NVSL.

LDAF is viewing this case as an Emerging Disease Incident (EDI) more than a Foreign Animal Disease Investigation because the agent, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, is on the USDA/HHS Select Agent List versus the OIE List of Reportable Diseases. However the agent is listed in the FAD Investigation Manual in Chapter 7 as a Category A substance that is tested at NVSL. Therefore NVSL was consulted for sampling and submission protocols. Dr. Hoffmaister provided the CDC protocol for testing soil to NVSL, and provided additional information on water testing. LDAF was initially tasked to be prepared with FAD media to help if needed to collect any samples for NVSL. LDAF has done the FADD preparation but it is not clear at this time if environmental sampling will be conducted or who will do the actual testing.

LDAF was further asked to conduct surveillance in the area surrounding the Tulane Center and this was done on Tuesday, January 27, 2014. A two-mile radius from the center was driven and only two animal facilities were located: a private horse stable with 3 horses and the St Tammany Parish Humane Society that houses dogs and cats for adoption

The afternoon multi agency phone conference began with discussions of the incident and the timeline. The two concerns for environmental contamination, in the breeder pens that housed the infected non-human primates (NHPs), and in wastewater from the necropsy suite were discussed, including for the first time comments from personnel from EPA.

The primary components of the response were stated to be...

- Sero-survey of infected NHPs and their cohorts
    - Meeting involving Dr. Morici, the researcher, and other Tulane staff, will take place tomorrow at Tulane.
    - Tulane will huddle with CDC laboratory personnel (contact: Dr. Hoffmeister (CDC), Dr. Don Sibley (Tulane)) on Friday.
    - Tulane is eager to commence testing.
- Occupational health concerns have been addressed by modifications of existing protocols for enhanced PPE for staff.
    - No mowing will be done in any of the areas until a risk assessment has been conducted. This will likely follow receipt of sero-survey data.
- Environmental sampling, if any is indicated
    - LDAF has indicated a willingness to collect samples, if testing is decided to be done.
    - It was pointed out by CDC subject matter experts that it is thought that the organism is present in aquafers in endemic areas.
- Environmental remediation
    - EPA discussed the ability to do remediation using a liquid disinfectant that is used to decon *Bacillus anthracis* contamination.
        - The proposed disinfectant is metam sodium, and organosulfur compound which is used as a soil fumigant, pesticide, herbicide and fungicide. This is one of the most widely used pesticides in the U.S.
    - Environmental remediation may be recommended initially, due to problems with sensitivity and specificity of environmental testing.
    - CDC stated that the chances of the organism becoming established are not very good due to the recent cold temperatures and the dry conditions experienced recently.
    - A desire to have a soil expert test the physical characteristics of the soil was expressed. This information concerning pH, moisture level, composition, etc. may shed more light on the ability of the organism to become established. EPA, LSU and DEQ were all mentioned as sources of soil scientists that could be contacted to test the soil.
    - EPA was suggested as the lead agency in soil remediation.

Louisiana GOHSEP volunteered to be the lead agency in establishing an incident command center. Mr. Davis, the director, voiced discontent with the response and stated that several key questions have not been answered.

LDAF closed out the conference by restating its ability to assist in environmental testing, if needed. LDAF also mentioned the results of the two mile radius surveillance study.